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The situation in the Middle East

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Letter dated 30 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I include here below a summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon, as follows:

22 March 2004

At 1100 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the region of Jubb Jannin.

At 1115 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Jiba' detachment zone at high altitude.

At 1120 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl detachment zone at high altitude.

At 1130 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Tibnin detachment zone at medium altitude.

At 1135 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Qulaylah detachment zone at medium altitude.

At 1150 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Sidon detachment zone at medium altitude.

At 1200 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Maghdushah detachment zone at high altitude.

At 1530 hours, Israeli enemy forces released a small red balloon from the Dahr al-Jamal position on the occupied Palestinian borders, opposite the village of Ramiyah, in the direction of Lebanese airspace. The balloon headed deep into Lebanese airspace and disappeared from view. The intended use of the balloon is unknown.

At 1620 hours, the sound of explosions inside the occupied Shab'a Farms was heard. The cause and nature of the explosions is unknown.

At 1730 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Tibnin detachment zone at medium altitude.

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At 1750 hours, the outlying areas of Habariyah-Kafr Shuba and Shab`a were subjected to artillery shelling from the Israeli enemy position inside the Shab`a Farms. Hostile military aircraft and helicopters also overflew the region at medium altitude and the Rashayya al-Fakhar-Kafr Hammam-Kafr Shuba public highway was cut off owing to a hole which appeared in the middle of the highway as a result of the artillery shelling and raids carried out by the aircraft. In addition, the electricity network was damaged and the electrical supply to a number of villages was cut. No casualties were reported.

At 1805 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Rashayya region and released hot-air balloons.

At 1850 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the Jiba` detachment zone at medium altitude.

23 March 2003

At 0700 hours, the outlying areas of Halta-Kafr Shuba-Kafr Hammam-Rashayya al-Fakhar-Habariyah and Shab`a were shelled and Israeli military aircraft carried out a raid on the Muhammad Juma` hill on the outskirts of the village of Kafr Shuba, shattering the windows of some houses and cutting off the Rashayya al-Fakhar-Kafr Shuba public highway, which links the village of Shab`a with that of Kafr Shuba.

At 1300 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the `Ilma al-Sha`b control-post zone at medium altitude.

At 1830 hours, Israeli helicopters overflew the Lebanese-Palestinian borders opposite Ramiyah-`Ita al-Sha`b-Rumaysh-Yarun at medium altitude.

At 2145 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the zones of Hawla and the Mis Jabal control post at low altitude and strafed Wadi al-Saluqi with rocket missiles and machine guns.

At 2155 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the outskirts of Shaqra and the public highway between Shaqra and Hawla, carrying out extensive strafing. No casualties were reported.

At 2230 hours, the corpses of Atif Husayn and Mahmud Ali, two Palestinians from the Ahmad Jabril group whose other identification details are unknown, were taken to the Martyr Ghandur hospital in Bint Jubayl and Muhammad Abdul Latif, whose identification details are also unknown, was injured, all having come under fire from Israeli helicopters on the outskirts of Shaqra-Wadi al-Saluqi district, where the electricity network and a number of pumice stone workshops were damaged.

24 March 2004

At 1050 hours, several explosions were heard inside the occupied Shab`a Farms.

At 1120 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the occupied Shab`a Farms at medium altitude.

At 2030 hours, the sound of explosions inside the occupied Shab`a Farms was heard. The causes and nature of the explosions are unknown.

These grave violations are part of a continuous series of provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace and land in contravention of the principles of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, such that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has repeatedly called for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter Israel from such violations and threats, which place international peace and security in jeopardy. Israel must assume full responsibility for the repercussions and consequences of such acts.

In drawing your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts of aggression, I request to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative